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NEWS

Posted on Tue. Jul. 08, 2008 - 10:51 am EDT

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Police and local briefs

Officers get new ride

The beat goes on, but smoother and faster.

Fort Wayne Police officers will soon be riding on three-wheeled, battery-powered vehicles similar to Segways. The machines incorporate aspects of foot patrol while providing additional speed and efficiency without using gas, said Police Chief Rusty York. He said the vehicles will be needed as police establish a greater downtown presence with the Harrison Square project, the centerpiece of which is a baseball stadium slated to open next year.

They can also be used at events such as the Three Rivers Festival and by members of the bomb squad to get more quickly to scenes where an explosive device may have been placed. Bomb squad members wear heavy armor.

"Officers can get around faster, and they also have lighting systems and compartments where officers can carry paperwork or whatever they need," York said.

The police department bought three of the vehicles at \$7,800 apiece. They operate on a three- to four-hour charge and cost about 10 cents a day to run, according to T3 Motion Inc., the manufacturer.

Fire brief

Garage damaged

The garage of a one-story home at 3316 Inwood Drive was damaged heavily by fire Monday night. Fire Department said one person who was home at the time of the fire was not injured.

Firefighters arrived about 7:45 p.m. at the home just off East Coliseum Boulevard near Vance Av under control in 22 minutes. There was light smoke damage to the rest of the house, and the cau investigation.

Local brief

County's cleaning cost down \$50K

The free market may save Allen County taxpayers \$50,000. The Allen County Commissioners sa

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